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# ONTARIO

Supt. of Neglected & Dependent  
Children

First Report of Work Under  
Children's Protection Act

1893

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FIRST REPORT

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OF WORK UNDER THE

# CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT, 1893

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31.

1893.

Ontario, Office of  
= PRESENTED BY THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN  
OF ONTARIO.



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TORONTO:

PRINTED BY WARWICK BROS. & RUTTER, 68 AND 70 FRONT STREET WEST,  
1894.

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF NEGLECTED  
AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

Toronto, Jan. 9th, 1894.

SIR :—I have the honor to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the first Report of the work of this office under the Childrens' Protection Act of 1893, being for the six months ending on 31st of December, 1893.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. KELSO,

Superintendent.

The HONORABLE J. M. GIBSON, M.P.P.,  
Secretary of the Province of Ontario,  
Toronto.

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**With the Compliments of**

**The Superintendent of Neglected and  
Dependent Children of Ontario.**

"The family is God's Reformatory."—*C. L. Brace*.

"The crimes of men have their origin commonly in the vagrancy of childhood."—*Victor Hugo*.

"The Christianity and civilization of a people may both be measured by its treatment of childhood."—*Cardinal Manning*.

"The deplorable lack of parental control when young is perhaps the first and greatest cause of crime."—*Detective Inspector Stark*.

"People talk about parental rights but everybody should be reminded that there is no such thing as a right unless it is founded upon a duty discharged."—*Rev. Hugh Price Hughes*.

"Though the nation is but slightly dependent on the children of to-day for the prosperity of to-day, it will be wholly dependent on them for the prosperity of to-morrow."—*Review of Reviews*.

"I have often advised the adoption of a child as an absolute duty to childless people who wished to make themselves happy with young life about them and avoid a selfish, useless old age."—*Miss Mulock*.

"When the foster parents are worthy of the name the boarded-out child acquires a real home and retains it after ceasing to be a child, when the dangerous age of independence and temptation begins."—*Mary Clifford*.

"The improvement in the outlook and prospect of a child who is boarded out, as compared with those of children who are detained for a long term of years in the walls of an institution, is enormous and indisputable."—*George Guillaume*.

"Remove the young from schools of crime, and place them under virtuous and benign influences, and almost in the same proportion do we cut off what, later on, will form part of our criminal population."—*Hon. J. M. Gibson*.

"Are parental rights to be regarded as sacred when parental duties have not only been neglected but outraged, and when the parents have done all in their power to make the life of the child while with them bitter and degraded! Has a child no rights? Are all the rights parental?"—*Dr. Barnardo*.

"The sufferings of little children must always appeal very keenly to our common humanity and to all classes of the community. Their helplessness, their dependence upon others, the fact that they are not responsible for the evils they endure, all plead loudly on their behalf."—*Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain*.

"Of all the great and worthy causes which occupy public attention, is there a single one which does not fade into insignificance by the side of the cause which is presented to you to-night. The little children of our country—voiceless, helpless, defenceless—stretch out their hands to you. Is there a man, is there a woman, who can turn away from such an appeal!"—*Hon. H. H. Asquith*.

"We shall probably always have among us parents who are vicious, or indolent, or incapable, or afflicted. But what we may reasonably hope, and it is much, is that more and more will their children be saved from the brand of pauperism, and passing under the control of the State, receive at her hands the good gift of honest and loving family life; then, neither disgracing her in after years, nor ashamed themselves of her guardianship, shall they rise up to call her blessed."—*Florence Davenport Hill*.

## SYNOPSIS OF THE ACT.

For the benefit of those who have not read the Act, the following summary of its chief provisions might be given :

**CRUELTY.**—The first eight sections relate chiefly to cruelty to children. They provide that any person who, having the care, custody, control or charge of a child, being a boy under fourteen years of age, or a girl under sixteen, wilfully ill-treats, neglects, abandons or exposes such child in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or serious injury to the health, shall be guilty of an offence under the Act, and liable to a fine not exceeding \$100, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months. If it be shown that the guilty party is interested financially in the death of such child the penalty is doubled. Persons who cause or procure boys under fourteen, or girls under sixteen to be in any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms, whether under the pretence of singing, playing, performing for profit or offering anything for sale, shall also be guilty of an offence. Due provision is made for the investigation of offences, for trial, and for the disposal of children ill-treated.

**CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.**—Special encouragement is given to the formation of Societies for the protection of children in the cities and towns of the Province. Officers of any children's aid society duly approved, may be authorized to act as constables for the purpose of enforcing the Act, and such officers may apprehend without warrant and bring before the judge as neglected any child apparently under the age of fourteen years who comes within any of the following descriptions, (1) Who is found begging or receiving alms or thieving in any street, thoroughfare, tavern or place of public resort or sleeping at night in the open air; (2) Who is found wandering about at late hours and not having any home or settled place of abode, or proper guardianship; (3) Who is found associating or dwelling with a thief, drunkard or vagrant, or who by reason of the neglect or drunkenness or other vices of the parents is suffered to be growing up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing such child to an idle and dissolute life; (4) Who is found in any house of ill-fame, or in company of a reputed prostitute; (5) Who is found destitute, being an orphan or having a surviving parent who is undergoing imprisonment for crime.

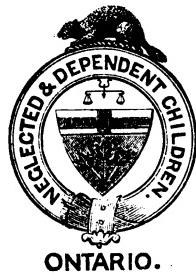
**DISPOSAL OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.**—For the hearing of such charges a special court is provided by the Act. If on investigation the judge finds that any child is dependent or neglected, so as to be in a state of habitual vagrancy or mendicancy, or ill-treated so as to be in peril of life, health or morality by continued personal injury or by grave misconduct or habitual intemperance of the parents or guardian, he may order delivery of such child to the children's aid society, and the children's aid society may send such child to their temporary home or shelter to be kept until placed in an approved foster-home. The society thus receives all the legal power of guardianship, and the rights of the parent in the child cease. Any expense in connection with the care and maintenance of young children has to be defrayed by the municipality in which the child last resided one year. The municipality is given full power of recovery against the parent.

**CHILDREN'S SHELTER.**—For the better protection of neglected children between the ages of three and fourteen years there must be provided in every city or town having a population of over 10,000 one or more places of refuge for such children only, to be known as temporary homes or shelters. Such homes shall not be used as a permanent provision or residence for any child but for its temporary protection for so long a time only as shall be absolutely necessary for the placing of the child in a well selected foster home. Children demented, idiotic or suffering from incurable or contagious diseases shall not be taken into these temporary homes. The supervision and management of such home is to be given over to the Children's Aid Society. In order that no hardship may be imposed it is provided that orphan asylums or other children's homes now in operation, may with the consent of the governing bodies thereof be used as temporary homes or shelters. An arrangement may also be made with a private family having the required facilities.

**CHILDREN'S VISITING COMMITTEE.**—In each electoral district of the Province a committee of six members is to be appointed by the county judge, the sheriff and the warden. The appointments are to be made from among those specially interested in the cause of children and willing to go to some trouble in promoting their welfare. Their duty is to assist in providing homes in private families for the little ones under the guardianship of the various children's aid societies, to visit them from time to time, and to report as to their welfare and progress. (Upon the faithful discharge of duty by members of these committees hinges much of the success of this work, and emphasis is therefore laid upon it.)

**THE CURFEW BELL.**—Municipal councils in cities, towns, and incorporated villages shall have power to pass by-laws for the regulation of the time after which children shall not be in the streets at nightfall without proper guardianship and the age or apparent age, of boys and girls respectively, under which they shall be required to be in their homes at the hour appointed, and such municipal council shall in such case cause a bell or bells to be rung at or near the time appointed as a warning, to be cal'd the "curfew bell," after which the children so required to be in their homes or off the streets shall not be upon the public streets except under proper control or guardianship or for some unavoidable cause. (2) Any child so found after the time appointed shall be liable to be warned by any constable or peace officer to go home, and if after such warning the child shall be found loitering on the streets such child may be taken by such constable to its home. (3) Any parent or guardian may be summoned for permitting his child to habitually break said by-law after having been warned in writing, and may be fined for the first offence \$1, without costs, and for the second offence \$2, and for a third, or any subsequent offence, \$5.

**SUPERINTENDENT.**—The Act provides for the appointment of a Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario, to aid and encourage the general observance of the provisions of the Act, and to give the work continuity and permanence. It is his duty to present the claims of the neglected children of the Province, and to secure as far as possible the enforcement of laws for their care and protection.



ONTARIO.

Toronto, Jan. 5th, 1894.

SINCE the creation of this office in July last, much of the work has necessarily been of a preparatory character, laying the foundation of future effort, and the matters so far dealt with can only be taken as experimental. I trust, however, that in this report, covering a period of six months, sufficient information will be found to indicate the value of this legislation to the Province, and the important and beneficial changes that will ensue from the faithful carrying out of its provisions. The cause of friendless and ill-treated children is one that has a strong claim upon the sympathy and aid of all classes, and under the improved conditions much good work should result. In addition to being more economical than the system hitherto pursued, the plan outlined in the Act for providing homeless children with a place in the family circle rather than consigning them to an institution, is the only true solution of the child-saving problem, leading on as it does to their gradual assimilation with the general community and their acquirement of self-reliant habits. Before the real benefits of the Act to the Province can be fully understood, it will be necessary to have Children's Aid Societies actively at work in the various cities and towns, and Children's Visiting Committees co-operating with them in providing homes for homeless children. To bring all the machinery of the Act into operation as speedily as possible has been my chief endeavor, and to this end I have distributed a large quantity of literature, have addressed meetings when opportunity afforded, and have written extensively in the public press explaining the provisions of the Act. It is most important that the need of child-saving work and the provisions of the Act should be widely known, since permanent success can only be hoped for when a strong public sentiment approves and supports any action taken. Many persons throughout the Province, whose co-operation was desired, did not understand the proposed work, and were consequently not in a position to give much assistance, while others, accustomed to old methods, required a thorough explanation before they would be disposed to change. As additional light is from time to time thrown upon this work on

behalf of a most unfortunate and helpless class of the community, there can be no doubt but that it will receive from all good people commendation and cordial assistance.

Since the Act has gone into force it has been favorably noticed by many of the newspapers and magazines of the Province, and those engaged in active philanthropic work have shown the greatest willingness to take advantage of it. The Children's Societies that previously existed in Toronto and Peterborough have altered their constitutions in order that they might engage in the increased work, and they have duly received letters of recognition under the Act from the Lieut.-Governor in Council. Societies have recently been organized in Ottawa and Guelph, and there is likelihood of the work being taken up in the near future in London, St. Thomas, Brantford, Hamilton and Barrie.

In seeking to carry out the objects aimed at, 600 copies of the Act have been sent out, also some 800 circular letters and packages of literature. The correspondence of the office, chiefly inviting co-operation in the work, has included some 300 letters. In a large number of the letters received, and also in personal calls at the office, advice and assistance has been sought in dealing with cases of neglected and ill-treated children. Cases occurring in Toronto were handed over to the local authorities, while in others action was taken to provide such remedy as the circumstances suggested. Some of these communications were of a private character and could only be referred to in a public report in the most general way. It will be observed, too, that in speaking of some of the cases dealt with, the names and localities are not given. This is essential in order to keep faith with the public, and to encourage confidence on the part of those disposed to report cases of ill-treatment or to offer a home to a dependent child. Any undue publicity would seriously impair the usefulness of this office and the successful working of the Act.

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## CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

As one of the most important agencies in carrying on this work is the Children's Aid Society, it is most desirable that as speedily as possible the organization of such societies in cities and towns should be brought about. This can only be done by presenting the cause of helpless children to the community and pointing out the facilities provided by the Act for their rescue and protection. It then rests entirely with the Christian and philanthropic people whether or not they will engage in the work, since there is not, and could not in the nature of things be, any compulsion in forming an organization which depends so entirely upon volunteer service, actuated by the very highest motives of compassion and benevolence. During the past three months I have visited and explained the provisions of the Act to those interested in Ottawa, Peterborough, London and Guelph, and I hope to continue this work in other centres as opportunities may arise.

For the guidance, of those wishing to know how to proceed with the formation of a Society the following circular was issued, under date of September 25th. This constitution, with slight modifications, has been adopted by the Toronto, Ottawa and Peterborough Societies :

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, INCLUDING FORMS SUITABLE FOR INCORPORATION AND RECOGNITION, CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, ETC.

#### *Circular-letter to Friends of Neglected and Orphaned Children throughout the Province :*

No city or town in Ontario should be without an active and vigilant Children's Aid Society, well organized and equipped, to look after the interests of ill-treated, neglected or orphaned children, thereby seeking to stay the curse of evil which is so often perpetuated by the failure to apply simple remedial measures in the period of childhood. To all friends of friendless and ill-treated children this circular-letter is therefore sent, in the hope that they will be led to unite in this most essential and important charitable work. There is no grander movement in which benevolently disposed persons could engage, and there is no work which offers more certain hope of success. To be able to rescue a little child from surroundings of vice and wretchedness and to place it in a well-ordered Christian home with opportunities for development is indeed to be a co-worker with Him who is pre-eminently the friend of children, and the reward must surely be great. Two years ago

when the first Society was organized in Toronto, it received the hearty approval of many representative men and women, who, in their philanthropic work recognized the need of a society to devote its entire energies to the cause of destitute children.

Under the Children's Protection Act of 1893, special encouragement is given by the Ontario Legislature to the formation of Children's Aid Societies, and when duly organized the Societies are strengthened in their work by being created semi-official bodies, their executive officer being invested with constabulary powers in rescuing children from evil surroundings, and in searching for and apprehending parties guilty of ill-treating children.

With a view to assisting those who may be disposed to inaugurate a Children's Aid Society in their city or town, some information might be given : In the first place an effort should be made to secure the sympathy and active aid of leading citizens, clergymen, directors of orphanages, aldermen, school trustees, etc. After a few private conferences, a public meeting might be arranged at which the subject could be brought prominently before the community and officers chosen. When duly elected the Board of Management should carefully consider the selection of an executive officer, as much of the success of the Society's work will depend upon the zeal, judgment and discretion of their agent. A competent and specially qualified man will accomplish untold good ; one lacking in judgment will alienate friends and greatly retard the progress that might otherwise be made.

The following Constitution, with any slight modifications or additions might be adopted by Children's Aid Societies in Ontario.

## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the Children's Aid Society of

### ARTICLE II.

#### *Objects.*

Its object shall be to protect children from cruelty, to care for and protect neglected, abandoned or orphaned children ; to provide such children as may be lawfully committed or entrusted to the Society with suitable homes in private families, and to watch over and guard their interests and promote their happiness and well being ; to secure the enforcement of laws relating to neglected and dependent children or juvenile offenders ; and to take the part of a friend toward any child accused of offences against the laws of the Province or the Dominion ; to provide free summer excursions, temporary residence in the country, or other means for benefitting poor children ; and, generally, to advocate the claims of neglected, abandoned or orphaned children upon the sympathy and support of the public.

### ARTICLE III.

#### *Membership.*

Any person paying the sum of \$1 annually shall be deemed a member of the Society, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Honorary members may be elected in recognition of distinguished services to the Society or to the cause of friendless children. Persons paying at any one time the sum of \$50 shall be eligible for life membership.

### ARTICLE IV.

#### *Officers.*

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary, two Honorary Solicitors and a Council composed of ten ladies and ten gentlemen—to be elected at the annual meeting of the Society in each year, who shall constitute the Board of Management and who shall hold office till their successors are appointed.

**ARTICLE V.***Vacancies.*

- Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled up by the Board of Management.

**ARTICLE VI.***Meetings.*

Meetings of the Board of Management shall be held at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President and Secretary, or upon the request of five members of the Board. Seven members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE VII.***Other Officers.*

The Board of Management shall have power to appoint such officers and agents as they may deem necessary to further the object, of the Society.

**ARTICLE VIII.***Powers.*

The Board of Management may enact by-laws for the transaction of their business, for the regulation of paid officers, and for all other purposes, and, generally, shall—during their term of office—have the full and complete management, control and disposal of the affairs, property and funds of the Society.

**ARTICLE IX.***Annual Meeting.*

The Annual Meeting of this Society shall be held on the second Thursday of October in each year. Other general meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Management. On the requisition of twenty members the President shall call a meeting.

**ARTICLE X.***Amendments.*

No alterations of or additions to this Constitution shall be made except at a meeting of the Board of Management, at which there shall be at least twelve members present, and provided written notice of the proposed change shall have been given at least one month previous, the same to be submitted for confirmation or otherwise to the next general meeting of the Society following such change.

---

**BY-LAWS.****PRESIDENT.**

No. 1.—The President or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Management, or in their absence a Chairman shall be elected by the meeting.

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#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

No. 2.—The order of business at the meetings of the Society and Board of Management shall be as follows :

1. Prayer.
2. Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Business arising out of the Minutes.
4. Reading communications.
5. Reports of Officers.
6. Reports of Committees.
7. Transaction of unfinished business.
8. New business.

#### SECRETARY.

No. 3.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep minutes of all the proceedings of the Society and of the Board of Management, and to record the same in the books provided for that purpose; also conduct all correspondence, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Management.

#### TREASURER.

No. 4.—The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds belonging to the Society, and shall disburse the same only upon the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary; shall report to the Board from time to time as may be required, and shall, prior to the Annual Meeting, submit a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures made up and audited to the 30th of September in each year.

#### COMMITTEE.

No. 5.—There shall be the following standing committees to be appointed at the first meeting of the Board of Management following the Annual Meeting: Finance and Audit Committee, Temporary Home Committee, Foster Home Committee, and Poor Children's Outing or Entertainment Committee. These Committees shall, so far as possible, report to each regular meeting of the Board of Management.

The Board of Management shall also have power to appoint any other Committees necessary for the advancement of its work.

In the appointment of Committees the Board of Management shall not be restricted to members of the Board, but may appoint members of the Society who may not be on the Board of Management.

#### ALTERATIONS.

No alterations of or additions to these by-laws shall be made except at a meeting of the Board of Management at which there shall be at least twelve members present; and provided notice of the proposed change shall have been given at least one month previous; the same to be submitted for confirmation or otherwise at the next general meeting of the Society following such change.

---

#### INCORPORATION.

To secure incorporation the following form might be used :

#### DECLARATION,

For incorporation under chapter 172, Revised Statutes of Ontario:

We, \_\_\_\_\_ all of the city of \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, do declare that—

1. We, in conjunction with others, have formed a Society for benevolent and provident purposes and desire to obtain incorporation under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, Cap. 172, being an Act respecting benevolent, provident and other Societies.
2. The corporate name of the proposed Society is to be "The Children's Aid Society of \_\_\_\_\_."

3. The objects of the said Society are to protect children from cruelty ; to care for and protect neglected, abandoned or orphaned children ; to provide such children as may be lawfully committed or entrusted to the Society with suitable homes in private families, and to watch over and guard their interests and promote their happiness and well-being ; to secure the enforcement of laws relating to neglected and dependent children or juvenile offenders , and, generally, to advocate the claims of neglected, abandoned or orphaned children upon the sympathy and support of the public.

4. There shall be a Board of Directors of the said Society, not exceeding thirty in number, including the officers of the said Society hereinafter named.

5. The names of the officers of the said Society are as follows :—(names) President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Agent, Counsel. The officers shall continue in office until their successors are appointed as required by the rules of the Society set forth in the copy of the constitution and by-laws of the said Society, hereunto annexed.

6. A general meeting of the members of the said Society shall be held every year, or as often as the Board of Directors shall deem advisable, for the appointment of officers and directors, and for other business in connection with the said Society as provided by the constitution and by-laws thereof.

7. The members of the Society shall consist of life, honorary and ordinary members, to be elected as provided by the constitution and by-laws of the said Society.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 189\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed in the presence of }

**APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION AS A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY UNDER THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT OF ONTARIO, 1898.**

, Ont., , 189 .

*To the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario :*

The Children's Aid Society of \_\_\_\_\_ having been duly incorporated under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, Cap. 172, for the purpose of protecting children from cruelty, protecting and caring for neglected, abandoned or orphaned children, and for otherwise engaging in work on behalf of children, hereby makes application for recognition as a Children's Aid Society under the "Children's Protection Act, 1898."

In consideration of such recognition we agree to adopt the forms and be amenable to the regulations issued from time to time from the office of the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario.

Signed }

## SOCIETIES ORGANIZED.

The Children's Aid Societies so far organized are as follows:—

OTTAWA.—Before the present Act was adopted the need for better legislation in dealing with children was fully realized in Ottawa. Reports containing an account of the Australian system of caring for neglected children fell into the hands of Lady Ritchie, then President of the Woman's Humane Society, and she at once instituted an agitation for a similar law in Ontario. In presenting the subject to the public she was ably assisted by Miss Seymour, Miss Nicholson, Mrs. Frechette, and other ladies, and their efforts were ultimately crowned with success. I had the pleasure of visiting Ottawa on September 27th last, and of explaining the provisions of the new law to those interested in the protection of children. A committee was appointed at that time to arrange for united action, and so well did they discharge this duty that on December 8th, I again visited Ottawa, on invitation, to participate in the successful organization of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa. The chair was occupied by Dr. Sweetland, and the occasion was graced by the presence of Their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen. His Excellency gave an address warmly endorsing the movement, and predicting many good results, not only to the children, but to the community, from the formation of the Society.

The officers elected were as follows:—

*Patron*.—His Excellency the Governor-General.

*Hon. President*.—Lady Aberdeen.

*President*.—John Sweetland, M.D.

*Vice-Presidents*.—Lady Ritchie, Hon. Mrs. Ivor Herbert, Rev. H. H. Pollard, Rev. M. J. Whelan, A. Gobeil and John Gorman.

*Treasurer*.—J. R. Armstrong.

*Secretary*.—J. Hervey Spencer.

*Honorary Solicitors*.—F. R. Latchford and A. W. Fraser.

*Council*.—Rev. J. J. Bogert, George S. May, F. R. E. Campeau, J. A. McCann, J. A. J. McKenna, F. R. Mercer, F. X. Deloges, Thos. Workman, W. L. Scott, Mrs. McLeod Stewart, Mrs. Frechette, Mrs. F. McDougal, Mrs. Beauiset, Mrs. Cote, Mrs. E. A. Mara, Mrs. J. P. Featherston, Mrs. Tilton, Miss Seymour, Miss Nicholson and Miss Wright.

TORONTO.—The Children's Aid Society of Toronto, was the first organization of that name to be formed in Canada, and it did much valuable work in preparing the way for the legislation of to-day. It was called into existence at a public

meeting held on July 3rd, 1891, and at once engaged in the agitation for more comprehensive laws dealing with neglected children. When the Act was passed it was the first Society to receive letters of recognition, and as an earnest of its determination to take full advantage of the increased facilities for protecting friendless children, it made an arrangement with the Rev. J. E. Starr, whereby that gentleman should superintend its work. As the leading Society in Ontario it will have an important influence in stimulating and encouraging other organizations throughout the Province.

The officers of the Society are as follows :—

*Patron*.—His Excellency the Governor-General.

*Patroness*.—The Countess of Aberdeen.

*President*.—J. K. Macdonald.

*Vice-Presidents*.—Wm. Oldright, M.D., A. M. Rosebrugh, M.D., Beverley Jones, W. Harley Smith, M.D.

*Treasurer*.—A. M. Campbell, Room 25, Confederation Life Building.

*Agent and Secretary*.—J. Edward Starr.

*Assistant Agent and Secretary*.—J. Stuart Coleman.

*Office*.—Room 32, Confederation Life Building, Telephone, 911.

*Committee*.—C. P. Smith, Rev. James Grant, R. S. Baird, E. E. A. DuVernet, Robt. Hall, C. J. Atkinson, A. MacWillie, W. D. Raymond, J. J. Kenny, Alexander Mills, Mrs. Wm. Oldright, Mrs. E. G. Helliwell, Mrs. J. J. Follett, Mrs. J. K. Macdonald, Mrs. C. C. Dalton, Miss W. M. Wills, Miss Anna Cull, Mrs. John J. Davidson, Mrs. C. E. Bateman, Miss M. Robinson.

Regarding the work of the Society under the Act, Rev. J. E. Starr, writes :—

" I have the honor to report that on the 12th day of October, 1893, The Children's Aid Society of Toronto, received the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council under the "Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to and better Protection of Children," passed at the last Session of the Ontario Legislature. The Society therefore has only been about ten weeks in existence and much of the work done has, necessarily, been preparatory and consisted in preparing the forms and determining the procedure to be used before the Courts, in order properly to enforce the new Act.

" At the same time there has been no lack of material with which to deal. Even in the short time since the Society received the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, there have been lodged at the office of the Society, complaints in 32 different cases, involving the interests of 76 children.

" Upon investigation, a few of these cases, it is almost needless to say did not warrant the intervention of the Society, but the number of additional cases which has come under the Society's notice, at the Police Court, and in which

children are concerned, warrants the assertion that the Society has within its knowledge the cases of upwards of 100 children who ought to, and could almost immediately be dealt with under the new Act, were it not for—

“ 1. The doubt, if the Commissioner appointed for the trial of Juvenile Offenders, has the power to try children charged with indictable offences—and  
“ 2. The want of a “ Shelter,” or place of safety.

“ The first-named difficulty it is trusted may be overcome by legislation secured at the ensuing session of the Dominion Parliament; while in regard to the last-named, notwithstanding that application, in accordance with the provisions of the new Act, was made during the latter part of last October, to the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, the matter still remains in abeyance, and meantime the Society has been able only to a very limited extent to avail itself of the provision of Sub-section 2, Sect. 10, of the Act, owing to the fact the existing institutions for children are taxed to their utmost capacity. The chief difficulty of course is the apparent expense and, possibly, there may be necessary a process of education before municipalities come to learn that the old system of allowing children to be loaded upon them into institutions at continual expense, and the children themselves thereby pauperized, is more expensive and less conducive to national well-being than the new policy of placing them out in well-ordered homes, to go forth at their majority a credit to themselves and a source of strength and wealth to the State.”

**PETERBOROUGH.**—As I have received from Mr. J. W. Bennet, Assistant Secretary of the Children’s Aid Society of Peterborough, a report covering all the work in that city, comment is unnecessary. The report reads:

“ This Society was incorporated by Order in Council of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, on the 8th Dec., 1893, and consequently at this date (20th Dec., 1893,) can have but little to report.

“ It might be well to state, however, the origin of the Society and the character of the work already done by ‘The Peterborough Branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.’

“ Upon the 13th January, 1892, a meeting of the clergymen and other leading citizens of Peterborough was called, and the last-named society was formed, with His Lordship the Bishop of Peterborough as President, and Mr. Hampden Burnham, the father of the Society and its most ardent supporter, as Secretary-Treasurer.

“ This Society carried on its work upon the lines laid down by the English Society, of which it was a branch for about two years and until the present Society was formed pursuant to our own statutes, and recognized as a Children’s Aid Society under The Children’s Protection Act, 1893. During these two years many striking examples of the necessity for such a work came before the Society,

and many poor, neglected children were cared for and protected from the threats and ill-treatment of cruel parents through the vigilance of the police under the direction of the officers of the Association. But all was not done that it was necessary or desirable to do for the want of the proper machinery to control the parents, remove the children and prevent litigation. This, we are happy to say, has been abundantly provided for in the admirable Act of our own Legislature, entitled, "An Act for the Prevention of Cruelty To and Better Protection of Children," which a short time ago became law.

"On the 2nd November, 1893, a meeting of the National Society was convened by Mr. Hampden Burnham, at which Mr. J. J. Kelso, Superintendent under the new Act, was present.

"After hearing Mr. Kelso's statement, it was unanimously resolved to form a new society which could take advantage of the statutory enactments in favor of the Society, and incorporation was at once sought.

"The following are the officers of the new society:—

*President*.—James A. Hall.

*Vice-Presidents*.—A. C. Dunlop, Miss Roger.

*Secretary-Treasurer*.—Hampden Burnham.

*Assistant Secretary-Treasurer*.—J. W. Bennet.

*Honorary Counsel*.—E. B. Edwards.

*Agents*.—Geo. I. Roszel, George Cochrane.

*Members of Committee*.—Mrs. Thos. Kelly, Mrs. Dr. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Wm. Walsh, Mrs. James Kendry, Mrs. Dr. Bell, Mrs. Beck, Mrs. John Burnham, Miss Chamberlin and Miss Nicholls, Rev. E. F. Torrance, Rev. J. C. Davidson, Rev. Father Scollard, Rev. H. Symonds, Messrs. John Burnham, J. C. Turnbull, E. Pearse, Thos. Cahill, Dr. Brennan and E. Phelan.

"The first and only meeting, so far, of this Society was held on the 14th December, 1893, and the following committees were appointed:—Finance Committee, Temporary Home Committee and Foster Home Committee. The constitution and by-laws adopted by the Society are practically a copy of the forms issued from the office of the Superintendent, Mr. Kelso.

"The Society is now in good shape for carrying on the good work which it is calculated to do, and it is hoped when called upon to report one year from this, that marked progress will have been shown."

LONDON.—On November 6th last I visited London to explain the provisions of the Act to those interested in such work. On the afternoon of that day I had the pleasure of meeting and addressing the Board of Management of the Protestant Orphan's Home, having received a very kind invitation from the President, Mrs. Morphy. I also arranged for and spoke at a meeting held in the City

Council chamber on the evening of the 13th, at which a committee was appointed to nominate officers and arrange for organization. This committee, at a subsequent meeting, nominated the following ladies and gentlemen :—

*President.*—Mr. J. R. Shuttleworth

*Vice-Presidents.*—Judge Wm. Elliot, Mr. Samuel Grigg, Mr. J. H. Flock, Q.C., and Dr. Arnott.

*Treasurer.*—Miss Elliot.

*Secretary.*—Miss K. Hutchinson.

*Executive Committee.*—Messrs. F. Matthews, J. W. Jones, W. J. Imlack, James Magee, Dr. Niven, Dr. Hutchinson, Messrs. Southam, Hungerford and Harrison, Mrs. Carfrae, Mrs. Chas. Hutchinson, Mrs. Morphy, Mrs. Gregston, Mrs. T. Macbeth, Mrs. Darch, Mrs. Hyman, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Fowler.

Several of these, however, declined to accept office, and in the meantime the organization is at a standstill. During the coming year it is to be hoped this important work of rescuing and caring for ill-treated and neglected children will be taken up with enthusiasm, so that London may become a bright example in its fostering care of this most helpless class in the community.

**GUELPH.**—On November 17, in company with Mr. W. R. Brock, of Toronto, I visited Guelph and took part in the organization of a Humane Society in that city. For some time previous the need of such a society had been agitated by leading citizens of Guelph, and as it was extremely doubtful that the city could efficiently maintain both a Humane Society and a Children's Aid, it was considered advisable to amalgamate the two movements. The meeting, which had been called by Col. Higinbotham, was well attended, the chair being occupied by Mayor Smith. After a number of addresses the following resolution was unanimously adopted on motion of Rev. J. C. Smith and Mr. E. R. Bollert :

Resolved, That having heard the various addresses, and being impressed with the need of organized work of this kind, it is desirable in the opinion of this meeting that a Society be organized to engage in humane work, and also to work under the Children's Protection Act of Ontario ;

Resolved further, That the said Society be now organized, to be known as the Guelph Humane Society, and that the following be its object : The prevention of all cruelty and the formation and development of a humane public sentiment. The care and protection of neglected, abandoned or orphaned children. The providing of such children as are lawfully committed or entrusted to the Society with suitable homes in private families, and to guard their interests and promote their happiness and well-being.

The officers elected were as follows :—

*President.*—Col. Higinbotham.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Mr. James Goldie and Miss Keating.

*Treasurer.*—Mr. Wm. Tytler.

*Secretary.*—Mr. F. W. Galbraith.

*Honorary Solicitor.*—Mr. A. H. Macdonald, Q.C.

*Executive Committee.*—**Messrs. J. E. McElderry, J. M. Bond, Capt. Clark, Dr. Brock, D. Scroggie, G. B. Ryan, W. H. Peterson, Maurice O'Connor and Mayor Smith, Mrs. T. Goldie, Mrs. J. C. Chadwick, Mrs. J. C. Kelcher, Mrs. D. Guthrie, Miss Robertson, Miss Burton, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mrs. A. Dixon, Mrs. R. J. Beattie, Mrs. W. M. Foster and Miss Girdwood.**

#### THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

Foremost in good works in Great Britain, it was natural to expect that the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen would continue their interest in philanthropic work in Canada. This expectation has not been disappointed, for they have since their arrival, shown the deepest sympathy with all effort for the uplifting of humanity. In the cause of neglected and dependent children they have taken an especial interest. On October 27th last, His Excellency presided at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, and on December 8th he attended the organization meeting of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, delivering an address in which he warmly commended the proposed work. Of both societies His Excellency has consented to become patron.

## CHILDREN'S VISITING COMMITTEES.

One of the most important features of the Act is the provision made for the appointment of a Children's Visiting Committee in each electoral district. The Act expressly states that all children coming under the guardianship of a Children's Aid Society are to be placed in family homes, and this is in accordance with the prevailing opinion and experience of the leading workers in other countries on behalf of dependent children. In Australia the foster home system is officially recognized in all the colonies as the only satisfactory solution of the problem, and on this continent, Massachusetts, Michigan and other states are in the vanguard of this great reform. Common sense teaches that to have the children mingle with the world, take part in the daily strife and face the problem of true living early is the only way to develop sterling, self-reliant men and women, and it is important to note, from an economical standpoint, that the substitution of the foster home for the institution has had the effect of checking immensely the throwing by parents on the state the maintenance of their children. Numerous authorities might be quoted showing the advantages of family training over institutional life, were this the place to do so. Having adopted this as the most desirable plan, it was necessary to provide machinery for ascertaining suitable homes and for maintaining some degree of oversight when children are placed out. In Australia the appointment of committees of ladies and gentlemen, interested in this cause and desirous of aiding in the alleviation of the misfortunes of the children, proved very effective, and this plan has been incorporated in the Ontario law. When fully organized, it is easy to see what a powerful network agency these committees may become, for the placing of the homeless children of the Province in homes where they will be willingly received and lovingly surrounded with good and helpful influences. No longer need it then be laid at the door of any community that it allowed its unfortunate waifs and unloved children to drift into crime, rather than provide them with a happy home life, where they might develop the best instincts of their nature and go out fully equipped to take their full share in the great work of life. The Children's Visiting Committee is the most natural, effective and at the same time economical plan of performing such work, since it enlists the active sympathy and co-operation of people in all parts of the Province, and in a cause that justly claims the sympathy and aid of the whole community. When the work is properly understood and developed, two or three postage stamps will often accomplish as much in the way of finding good homes as could be accomplished by a salaried official travelling at considerable expense. There can be no more Christian work than that of happily placing friendless and orphan children, and I have no doubt but that in this enlightened Province many good people will freely volunteer their services.

The homes wanted for boys and girls whose parents have been false to their trust is a place where their dispositions may be studied and their capabilities gauged; where the wounds and the bruises received in too early contact with a cruel and heartless world may be healed; where the feeling of homelessness and perhaps disgrace may be supplanted with the courage born of new hopes, good prospects and worthy aims; where ambition may be quickened, pride aroused and the humbleness of self help shown and made intelligible. There are, it is safe to say, many people who will take these children with just such motives, and it is the duty and privilege of the Children's Visiting Committee to find them out and forward particulars to this office, so that the children who are now waiting may enter upon this new and brighter experience.

Another important work which these committees might undertake and perform satisfactorily, if it were assigned to them, is the visiting of children who are placed out by the various juvenile institutions of the Province. At present none of the orphanages employ a travelling agent, and when placing out children they have to rely almost entirely on correspondence in deciding whether or not the home is a suitable one. Afterwards the children are rarely visited, and while appearing from the correspondence to be happy and comfortable, they may be suffering from unjust treatment and fretting from loneliness and lack of affection. Such cases may not be the rule but they do occur, and it is from a knowledge of the silent misery of some of these children that I would plead for more frequent visitation and more kindly consideration for their wants and their aspirations. The reason why the children are not periodically visited in their new homes by a representative of the orphanage is on account of the expense. Now, as already indicated, why should not the Homes avail themselves of the services of the Children's Visiting Committees? Should the trustees of any orphanage pass a resolution to that effect, and place in my hands a list giving full particulars of each of their children placed out, I will spare no pains until there is provided for every such child a local visitor or friend to whom they could learn to look with confidence for sympathy and encouragement.

As illustrating the need for careful local enquiry before sending forth a young child, the following case might be mentioned: Some time ago I received an application from a north-eastern county for a girl of 12 or 13, there being the usual promises of a good home. It happened, however, that I was well acquainted with a resident in the neighborhood, and on writing to him for a report I learned that the family consisted of four persons—an old woman of over seventy, a crazy daughter, and two sons about 35 and 40 years of age, the latter of whom was also of weak intellect. A child sent to such a place would in all probability be made a household drudge, doomed it might be to years of wretchedness, and the party sending her would be guilty of almost criminal negligence. Such errors may be avoided with the assistance of members of the Children's Visiting Committee.

With a view to getting these committees appointed as speedily as possible, the following circular letter was issued on August 9th, and sent to the County Judges, Sheriffs and Wardens of the Province:

**CHILDREN'S VISITING COMMITTEES.**

SIR,—I have the honor to send you herewith a copy of the bill adopted by the Ontario Legislature "For the Prevention of Cruelty to, and the Better Protection of Children," and I beg that you will carefully peruse it in order that you may be familiar with its provisions. The chief object of the measure is to encourage the placing of dependent children in foster homes rather than in institutions, in the belief that they will in this way become more rapidly and satisfactorily absorbed into the community. You will observe that provision is made for the appointment of a "Children's Visiting Committee" in each electoral district, the principal duty of which will be to make enquiry regarding available homes, and to act as local guardians or "friends" of children placed out. The appointment of these committees is placed in the hands of the county judge, the sheriff and the warden of the county, and as the successful working of the Act will depend very largely on the enthusiasm and zeal of the committee, it is very desirable that the selections should be carefully made. What is aimed at is the organization in every district of the Province of committees of men and women who, taking a loving interest in this class of children and earnestly desirous of promoting their welfare and happiness, will co-operate with this Office in seeking to restore them to home influences and affections. These committees would give their services voluntarily, and would seek to interest others in the work of child-saving. They should be representative of the different denominations, so that no friction may arise on this point.

May I ask you, therefore, in making appointments to have regard, as far as possible, to the following qualifications: He or she should be interested in the cause of homeless children; a church-member, well known in the district and possessed of some influence among neighbors. If you do not already know of suitable persons, a little enquiry among the local clergy or philanthropic associations will no doubt greatly assist you in making a choice.

The appointments might be made as soon as convenient to yourself and colleagues, and when the parties are appointed and they have duly accepted, full particulars should be forwarded to this Office, in order that they may be supplied with information. No chairman or secretary of the appointing committee is named, as it has been thought better to leave the date of meeting to mutual arrangement. If, however, at the time of meeting, each member came prepared to nominate two persons, matters might be facilitated. Kindly let me have the name, especially of a leading member of a committee who would act as correspondent, and to whom communications and literature could be addressed.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. KELSO, Superintendent.

A copy of the Act was also sent with each letter. In this way the subject was brought prominently before a class of men who may be of great assistance in advancing the work, and in several cases I received replies giving assurance of cordial co-operation. Only a small proportion of the committees have, however, been appointed so far. This is due to several causes, among which might be mentioned doubt as to the proper procedure and the difficulty of speedily ascertaining just the right parties to appoint. The latter cause is a reasonable one, and the

interests of the work will be best conserved by careful selection of those most likely to give a whole-hearted service. The admirable spirit shown by some of the judges in taking up this work deserves high commendation, and I would especially instance the following circular drawn up by Judge W. S. Senkler, of Lanark, and sent out to prominent residents of that county :

PERTH, 19th Aug., 1893.

DEAR SIR,—By the Act of the last session of the Ontario Legislature "For the Prevention of Cruelty to, and Protection of Children," a scheme is developed for bettering the condition of neglected and dependent children. The effectual working of this scheme is largely dependent on the zeal with which it is undertaken and carried out. Among many other steps for that end, provision is made for the appointment of a "Children's Visiting Committee" for each electoral district, consisting of six persons, not less than three being women. As provision is made for the access by clergymen to all children of their own denomination, I infer that the intention is that the committee should be lay. The appointment rests with the County Judge, Sheriff, and Warden. I propose to take up the matter on the 15th Sept., and shall be much obliged for any information as to suitable persons a reasonable time before that date. It is of the highest importance that the persons appointed should be genuinely interested in friendless children, willing to accept the office and able to devote some portion of their time to this object from philanthropic motives. The appointment holds good for three years. A careful perusal of the Act shows that the intention is to procure foster homes for the children rather than their rentention by societies and institutions, and thus have these children put in the way of becoming useful citizens. I hope to hear from you before the date mentioned.

Yours very truly, W. S. SENKLER, Co. Judge, Lanark.

Judge Ardagh, of Barrie, issued a similar circular, and also addressed the Simcoe County Council, explaining the proposed work of the committee. Judge Macdonald, of Brockville ; Judge Lacourse, of Berlin ; Judge Robb, of Simcoe ; Judge Muir, of Hamilton ; Judge Pringle, of Cornwall ; and Judge Ermatinger, of St. Thomas, also assisted materially in the work. I would respectfully urge the various County Judges to give this matter consideration at an early date, and seek out and appoint suitable persons willing to act on these committees.

#### COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The committees appointed, to date, are as follows :

**NORTH NORFOLK.**—Mrs. John Hayes, Mrs. Harvey Widmer, E. C. Carpenter, M.P.P., Simcoe ; John Gibbons, La Salette ; D. W. Parsons, Delhi ; Mrs. Louis L. Sovereign, Waterford.

**SOUTH NORFOLK.**—Mrs. James Stewart, Port Rowan ; W. A. Charlton, M.P.P., Lyndoch ; Mrs. H. Holden, Port Dover ; Miss Florence Bingham, Langton ; Mrs. John Smith, Nixon ; Calvin Yates, Houghton.

**NORTH BRANT.**—Charles Whitlaw, J.P., Paris ; Wm. Simpson, J.P., Onondaga ; W. B. Wood, M.P.P., St. George ; Mrs. James Cowie, Caledonia ; Mrs. J. M. Wheeler, Mrs. E. Cockburn, Paris.

**SOUTH BRANT.**—Stewart M. Thomson, Brantford; Henry Cox, J.P., Burford; Hon. A. S. Hardy, M.P.P., Brantford; Mrs. Duthie, Burford; Mrs. Dr. Cochrane, Mrs. R. M. Fullerton, Brantford.

**SOUTH WATERLOO.**—T. B. Allan, Galt; John D. Moore, M.P.P., Allen Goodall, Mrs. Wm. Graham, Mrs. Andrew Cavers, Mrs. John Gollie, Mrs. Robert Alexander.

**NORTH WATERLOO.**—E. W. B. Snider, M.P.P., Waterloo; Frederick Colquhoun, Mrs. Colquhoun, Waterloo; Mrs. Hugo Krauz, Mrs. John Motz, Mrs. Dr. Lackner, Alex. Miller, Berlin.

**ELGIN.**—Mrs. A. Burns, John Baird, D. McColl, M.P.P., Judge Ermatinger, Miss King, Mrs. John Risdon, St. Thomas.

**EAST SIMCOE.**—Hon. Chas. Drury, Crown Hill; Andrew McCampbell, M.P.P., Midland; John Cuppage, Orillia; Mrs. S. L. Montgomery, Victoria Harbor; Mrs. Dr. John Hanly, Waubaushene; and Mrs. Thos. Kitchen, Lovering.

**WEST SIMCOE.**—Dr. Wylie, M.P.P., Toronto; Henry Baycroft, Everett; Wm. Robinson, Stayner; Mrs. Bernard and Mrs. Sykes, Collingwood; and Mrs. Robert Gallagher, Everett.

**CENTRE SIMCOE.**—Robt. Paton, M.P.P., New Lowell; Dr. J. C. Smith, Mrs. Thos McKee and Miss Annie McConkey, Barrie; Thos. Lawson, Elmvale; and Miss Bella Sneath, Midhurst.

**CARDWELL.**—W. H. Hammill, M.P.P., and Mrs. Thos. Gaviller, Beeton; Mrs. Tyrwhitt, Bradford; Mrs. Haughton Lennox, Barrie; Mrs. Thos. Greenaway, Tottenham; and D. K. Ross, Cookstown.

**BROCKVILLE.**—Hon. C. F. Fraser, M. P. P.; Mrs. E. J. Reynolds, Brockville, Miss McGannon, Brockville; Mrs. G. W. Grout, Lyn; Mrs. Duncan Fisher, Athens; Mrs. A. W. Mallory, Mallortown.

**LEEDS.**—Robert H. Preston, M.D., M.P.P., Newboro; Mrs. Isaac Read, Westport; Mrs. John R. Dargavel, Elgin; Mrs. Truman Russell, Seeley's Bay; Mrs. Wm. Byers, Gananoque; Miss Julia Thompson, Gananoque.

**GRENVILLE.**—Orlando Bush, M.P.P.; Mrs. Thomas Fraser, Kemptville; Mrs. Percival, Merrickville; Mrs. G. Metzler, Cardinal; Mrs. Patrick McCrea, Prescott; Mrs. Henry Freeland, Augusta.

**STORMONT.**—Mrs. Geo. Bigelow, Aultsville; Mrs. R. C. McGregor, Sandringham; Rev. J. W. McLeod, South Finch; Dr. Alguire, Cornwall; Donald McIntosh, Strathmore; Wm. Mack, M.P.P., Cornwall.

**DUNDAS.**—Wm. Sharra, Brinston's Corners; Wm. Barr, Winchester; J. P. Whitney, M.P.P., Morrisburgh.

**GLENGARRY.**—Mrs. Dr. Munroe, Mayville; Mrs. James Train, Lancaster; Miss Hannah Chisholm, Alexandria; Geo. H. McGillivray, Williamstown; James Rayside, M.P.P., Lancaster.

#### TO MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES.

On receiving notification of the appointment of these committees, I addressed to each member the following circular-letter :

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S VISITING COMMITTEES.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

TORONTO, September 15th, 1898.

In the adoption by the Ontario Legislature of the Children's Protection Act of 1898, we have what has long been hoped for by philanthropic workers—the union of State aid and private effort for the amelioration of the condition of neglected and dependent

children. The Province does not assume the difficult if not impossible task of carrying on a work of this kind unaided, but it offers advice and countenance to all benevolently disposed persons, who, from love of their fellows and inspired by Christian precept, desire to do something to advance the common interest. The Act recently adopted outlines a scheme whereby homeless children may be rapidly absorbed into the general community and provided with what they need more than anything else—a family home, with its joys and salutary experiences. It provides for the complete separation, by due legal process, of parent and child, where the welfare of the latter demands such a course; and these children, innocent themselves, and more to be pitied than orphans, are to be consigned to the legal guardianship of a Children's Aid Society, and as speedily as possible placed out in foster homes. The duty of finding proper homes and supervising the children when placed out is entrusted under the Act to committees of six members in the various electoral districts, acting under the direction of the Toronto Office.

The object and duties of the committees are defined in the Act as follows:

"For each electoral district in the Province of Ontario there shall be appointed a committee consisting of six persons, not less than three of whom shall be women, who shall be known as the 'Children's Visiting Committee' for such electoral district. The said committee shall co-operate with the Children's Aid Societies, and shall serve without compensation. They shall have the right at all times to visit any temporary home or shelter in the electoral district, and to suggest from time to time such provisions, changes or additions, as they may think desirable. They shall also assist, under the direction and advice of the Superintendent, in the careful selection of foster homes for the children in the temporary homes and shelters, and in the visitation of children when placed in selected families, and such visitation shall be made for each child at least once in every three months; and the said committee shall have power to remove any child from the family in which it may be placed to a temporary home or to another family, at their discretion, subject to any rules or regulations in that behalf, to be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The said committee shall also have the right at any time to visit and inspect any house registered under the Act for the Protection of Infant Children, and to exercise the powers given by section 9 of said Act.

"The said Children's Visiting Committee for each electoral district shall be appointed by the County Judge, the Sheriff and the Warden of the county of which such electoral division forms a part, and in the case of a city forming a separate electoral division, by the County Judge, the Sheriff and the Mayor of such city, and such committee shall hold office for a period of three years. The Member of the Legislative Assembly for each electoral district shall be one of the said Visiting Committee for such electoral district.

"The said committee shall, in the selection of homes, endeavor to secure homes where children may be received to be cared for without remuneration, and shall aim at promoting and encouraging a philanthropic sentiment on behalf of neglected, abandoned and destitute children, and adopt such methods as they may think best for securing voluntary subscriptions of money to be devoted to the effective carrying out of the objects of this Act.

"The said committee shall from time to time report to the Superintendent the homes which they select and recommend for the care of children, with full particulars in each case; and shall also annually report to the Superintendent as to their visitations and as to each child placed out in their district, and as to all other matters coming within their sphere of duty as such committee. They shall also from time to time report to Children's Aid Societies with reference to children placed out by such societies respectively, to the end that such societies may at all times have accurate knowledge regarding the care, oversight, education and general welfare of such children."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the members of the Visiting Committee are practically the local guardians of dependent children, and are empowered to take whatever steps are necessary to protect them from ill-treatment or injustice, as well as to give them that kindly encouragement and counsel which their youth, inexperience and friendless condition calls for.

At first the duty of the committee will be more to enquire for homes where children would be received, and to encourage a philanthropic sentiment on their behalf. The formation and objects of the committee should be given publicity through the local newspaper and the churches, and if one member is specially mentioned as the secretary or correspondent, applications no doubt would soon come in. Printed forms of a general character will be supplied to the committees, so that the work and correspondence may be made as simple as possible. The various orphanages and placing-out agencies will doubtless be glad to avail themselves of the services of the committee for the more complete supervision of their proteges, and in this department alone valuable aid will be rendered by the committee.

Homes should be sought where the child would be received and cared for from motives of love and compassion. It is not essential that the children should be adopted, nor is there any obligation to keep them for any length of time. The committee has power to recall the child for reason, and in the same way a foster parent can return the child after giving notice of his or her desire to do so. Arrangements for the care of one of these children should be made with the mother, the father or other male head of the household signing as a consenting party. In this way the comfort and happiness of the child is better ensured.

When suitable parties are found who could not take a child without some compensation, a small payment might be arranged to cover actual expenses, say \$1 per week for an ordinary healthy child. It is hoped, however, that payment will only be necessary in the case of children laboring under some disadvantage. While some may claim this figure to be too low, it must be borne in mind that the purpose of the Act would be defeated if persons were led to seek the care of children for the sake of revenue. There must be some sacrifice on the part of foster parents, and they should be constantly reminded that in providing home comforts for a forlorn and helpless child they have their part in the promise: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

It is desirable that the right class of homes should be found for these children, and where after a short time a child is found not to be contented, it is better for all concerned that a change should be made. A boy or girl who would be unhappy or perhaps uncontrollable in one home would often be quite satisfied and amenable in more congenial surroundings, and occasionally cases will arise calling for much patience and thought on the part of the committee. As these children are taken in nearly every case from the poorer classes, they will be more at home and more likely to thrive among working people of modest pretensions. It is very essential that in the homes of foster parents habits of cleanliness and tidiness should prevail, that truthfulness should be strictly observed and bad language be forbidden. With such conditions, and a genuine love for the child, the lack of a bank account is of small importance.

Children placed out in foster homes must in all cases be treated as equals, dining at the family table, attending day and Sabbath schools, and afforded opportunities of enjoyment and recreation in common with other children. They may be employed in household errands and service to a reasonable extent, and the faithful foster parent will assist them in acquiring a knowledge of suitable domestic and out-door work. Care must, however, be taken by the committee to see that they are not used or treated as servants—a practice altogether too common among those who apply for the care of dependent children.

Later on, when children have been placed out, and it becomes the duty of the committee to visit them and inspect their surroundings, a great deal must be left to the tact and discretion of the visitor. An effort should be made to establish a friendly feeling between the foster mother and the visitor, so that the visits may not be regarded as an intrusion, and in the course of a conversation many little facts will come to light that will materially assist the visitor in arriving at proper conclusions. By cultivating the powers of observation, and especially noting the looks and manner of the child, a fair idea will usually be gained of how matters stand. While seeking to fully ascertain if the child is well treated and happy in his or her surroundings, it will be necessary to avoid creating in the mind of the child, by injudicious questions, distrust of the foster parents. Also, where the visitor finds a thoroughly satisfactory state of affairs, the heartiest recognition of the invaluable service rendered should be accorded. The aim of the visitor and of the committee should be to establish such a relationship that both the child and the foster parent will regard them as friends, and be mutually interested in the visits. All matters of doubt, or any difficulty that may arise, and which cannot be disposed of by the committee, should be at once referred to the Central Office, and when the circumstances warrant it, there should be no delay in at any time removing a child.

It has been thought—and it is so set forth in the Act—that girls at twelve years of age, and boys at fourteen, should become self-supporting. This is a matter in which the committee may be of great service, assisting the foster parents in obtaining suitable employment for the children, and arranging such agreements as will ensure the training of the boys and girls in congenial occupations, at such remuneration as their services entitle them to. It is important that as far as possible the tastes and inclinations of the child should be considered in the selection of employment.

In conclusion, it may not be out of place to again refer to the supreme importance of the work, and to urge upon the committee the need that they should be faithful to the children before any other consideration. This is a new work in Ontario, and its success in large measure depends upon the Visiting Committees. The task is at once a sacred and a delicate one, and members of the committees should realize themselves as occupying the position of parents towards these children of the State. Remember that these little ones have been wronged, that their forlorn condition does not arise from any fault of their own, that they crave affectionate and forbearing treatment, and that they have a right to receive at the hands of the community a home and a chance to develop their capabilities. Seek for them an entrance into a warm motherly heart—and into a home where morality, temperance and industry prevail. Where these prime conditions are found all minor rules to ensure the best welfare of the child will be easily and pleasantly adjusted—without them success can only be regarded as doubtful. Frequent correspondence with the Central Office is solicited, and any advice or assistance possible will always be cheerfully offered.

J. J. KELSO, Superintendent.

With many of the members I opened a correspondence, which will ultimately lead to important results. In the villages and country districts there is reason to hope that the visiting committee will find many good homes for the little ones who are now waiting in our orphanages and shelters. If each member could only realize the great service he or she may render the community and the children, by searching out and reporting to me approved homes and the age of the child desired, a great work might begin without further delay. In all our cities there are needy children for whom these homes are wanted. One of the city refuges recently reported having two bright children for disposal, whose misfortune

was illegitimacy, and there are also orphaned and deserted children, wronged and injured beyond repair, in the shelters and public institutions of the Province waiting for homes. If only given a chance in life, with good surroundings and some share of human love and kindness, why should they not become useful and honorable citizens, a credit and a joy to faithful foster-parents! I repeat that there can be no work more Christ-like than that of saving these young children—the innocent sufferers from misfortune and injustice. Some of the members of the committee do not as yet understand their duties, being under the impression that they are expected to rescue abused and neglected children. Now, they are not asked to do this, but rather to help find homes for the little ones already rescued and now in the shelters of the children's aid societies.

For the guidance of those wishing to obtain children I issued the following application form :

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A FOSTER CHILD.

NOTE.—This form is for parties desirous of receiving children as members of their family and not for service. It should be made out by the mother of the household, the husband signing as a consenting party.

Ont.,

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*To J. J. Kelso, Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario, Parliament Buildings, Toronto:*

I, hereby make application to have the care and training of a  
aged about . I am a resident of in the County of . My  
husband's name is , and his occupation . Our nearest railroad  
station is , and post office address

The following is a description of our home :

Our family consists of the following (give ages) :

Others living with us are :

I belong to the Church, and can refer you for references to the following three gentlemen :

If entrusted with the care of a child, I would give it a good home, treat it kindly and be willing to agree to any rules laid down for its care and protection.

(Signed)

#### HUSBAND'S AGREEMENT.

I, have read over the application made by my , and I fully agree with her in this matter. If a child is entrusted to us, I hereby engage to use my best endeavors to protect it from harm, either moral or physical, to advance its welfare and happiness and to train it up as a good and useful citizen.

(Signed)

## **CLERGYMAN'S CERTIFICATE.**

I am acquainted with the above-named applicant, her husband and family. I have read over the foregoing statement and believe it to be true, and I believe the family to be one to which may safely be entrusted the physical or moral training of either male or female children. I shall be glad to exercise pastoral supervision over any children placed in their care.

To Clergyman of the (Date)

It will be observed that in the foregoing form the application is to be made by the mother or female head of the household. This is following the experience of Australia, and as the application concerns children under ten years of age it will readily be seen that the woman with whom the little ones will have most to do should be the applicant. To give the agreement all necessary legal significance, and in order that harmony may be known to exist, a clause of endosation is signed by the husband. In order that no opportunity may be lost it might be well to know that any intending applicant may send the information asked for in the foregoing without waiting for the printed form.

The application for a boy or girl for service is slightly different in wording, as follows:

**APPLICATION FOR A BOY OR GIRL FOR SERVICE.**

Ont., 189

To J. J. Kelso, Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

I, , hereby make application for a aged about to live in my home and assist in . I am a resident of and my occupation is. Our nearest railroad station is , and post office address

The following is a description of my home: (State whether property is owned or rented)

Our family consists of the following (give ages):

Others living with us are:

I belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ Church, and can refer you for references to the following three gentlemen:

If entrusted with the care of a child, I would give it a good home, treat it kindly and be willing to agree to any rules laid down for its care and protection. I would also pay such sum for its services as may hereafter be agreed.

(Signed)

**NOTE.**—If applicant has had any children of this class in the past, full particulars must be given.

For the assistance of members of visiting committees in reporting on the suitability of homes offered in their neighborhood the following form was drawn up:

VISITING COMMITTEE'S CERTIFICATE.

District of

Date

The Visiting Committee for have, by of their number, made due enquiry concerning the applicant, Mrs. of and her family, and have inspected her home and the accommodation she proposes to provide for the she applies for. We are satisfied that she and her husband are suitable persons to be entrusted with the care of children, and that they and their children are of good moral character. We therefore recommend that the application be granted. We also undertake, should any children be entrusted to the applicant, to exercise supervision over them in accordance with the conditions and the regulations that may from time to time be in force; to endeavor by counsel, and when necessary, by the exercise of the authority conferred upon us, to preserve them from evil and immoral influences and example, and to report regularly to the Superintendent of Dependent Children, and also to the Children's Aid Society of , concerning their physical and moral welfare.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Material assistance by members of the visiting committees has as yet only been given in a few instances, since the appointments have been recent and the work but imperfectly understood. I shall, however, call into requisition the services of the members when cases are reported from rural districts, and in furnishing information as well as in ascertaining available homes, they will be able to give much valuable aid.

The question may be raised by some that such a system will give rise to espionage, and will be objectionable to those disposed to receive and care for children. To guard against this, much will depend upon the tact and discretion of the visitor. In my circular-letter I endeavored to point out this danger, and all sensible people will see the wisdom of performing work of this kind in a friendly and reasonable spirit. On the other hand, no one should object to a child being visited and its condition enquired into, and if they are endeavoring to do what is right they will have nothing to fear from the closest scrutiny. To place a child in a strange home and leave it unvisited is a great wrong to the child, and in some cases it may prove so to the foster parents, since a friendly visitor could settle any little points of difference and express appreciation of kindness shown to the child.

The following cases indicate to some extent the important service that might be rendered by the children's visiting committees should the various orphanages and children's homes desire to avail themselves of such assistance:

In July I received a complaint from the secretary of one of the homes that a girl, placed out with a farmer in Wellington County, had not been properly treated, and they desired her return to Toronto. The farmer had been advised

to this effect, but he took no notice of the communication, and the girl herself was so dissatisfied that she wrote threatening to run away. The matter seemed to require prompt action, and I volunteered to go up at once and bring the child to Toronto. This offer was accepted and I left the next day. I had no difficulty in securing possession of the girl and returning her to the home, and as the farmer was clearly in the wrong, I charged him \$10 for expenses, which amount he paid. The girl was provided with a situation where she is doing well. An active member of a Children's Visiting Committee residing in the neighborhood, could, I think, have fully attended to this case without difficulty or friction arising.

A short time ago I undertook a somewhat similar mission for the same Home. One of the wards of the Home had been placed out with a farmer in Simcoe County when 11 years of age. She remained there until past her 15th year, and then, alleging ill-treatment, ran away to a neighbor, who, it seems, had taken a fancy to her and held out an inducement of higher wages. The Board of the Home decided that she would have to return to Toronto, as they were not prepared to sanction the second arrangement, made without their knowledge or authority, and setting, as it undoubtedly would, a bad example to all other dependent children. I visited the place and interviewed all the parties concerned. When informed that she would have to return to Toronto the girl broke into hysterics and refused to move. When, after a great deal of delay, she was threatened with force, she made an excuse, slipped out the back door and disappeared. As her footprints were plainly visible in the deep snow, there was no difficulty in tracing which way she had gone, and, accompanied by the farmer, I followed the tracks, until, coming to a hill, we saw her a long way ahead fleeing swiftly along the road. We then returned and got out the horses, but did not overtake her until she was six miles away, and just at the door of some relatives of the people from whose house she started. Another scene ensued, and after losing a couple of hours endeavoring to persuade her to return, I was compelled to leave without her. Before doing so, however, I sought to protect her interests by drawing up and securing the proper signatures to an agreement, by which she was to be paid \$2 per month and partly provided with clothing. This action I reported to the Home for their consideration, but they decided in favor of putting all necessary legal machinery into force to compel the girl's return, on account largely of the danger of establishing a precedent which would wrongfully guide other girls to take the law into their own hands. In this case also a member of a Visiting Committee could by an acquaintance with both parties have adjusted matters long before they came to a crisis, and I am sure this young girl might easily have been saved several unhappy years.

In this connection it is pleasing to mention that a lady residing at Thorold, Ont., called and very kindly volunteered to give any assistance possible in her neighborhood. The offer was most opportune since I had but recently placed

out a child in that locality, and was in need of someone residing near by to pay an occasional friendly visit. This mission was accepted, and the service thus rendered will be of great value. Other ladies residing in the smaller towns and villages of the Province might follow this good example, and if those who are interested in this work will write to me I think I can show them how they can give important aid.

#### HOMES PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN.

One of the most pleasing incidents of the work was an application received from a well-to-do farmer, residing in a western county. Having lost two children by diphtheria, he and his wife were anxious to secure a little girl to fill the vacant place and wrote to know if I could aid them. He was to visit Toronto shortly and would then see the child if I could find him one. I wrote that I would be pleased to assist, and, with the sanction of the management, selected a bright little girl, eight years of age, from one of the Homes. A new dress was made for her, and it was arranged that she should meet her proposed guardian at the residence of the Corresponding Secretary of the Home. The farmer called, was delighted with the child, and willingly signed an agreement, not only to give her a good home, but also to make an annual payment, so that on the attainment of her 18th birthday she should have \$100 in cash. The little girl seemed quite pleased with the arrangement, and, from his general reputation and manner, the farmer is one in whose hands the future of the child may safely be entrusted.

About the same time I had some correspondence with a lady in the Niagara district, which led to a family home being provided for another little girl.

#### DEMAND FOR GROWING CHILDREN.

From the farming district, within a radius of fifty to seventy-five miles, I received a number of applications for children from 11 to 15 years of age to assist in house and farm work. I found, on enquiry at the various institutions, that children of 11 or 12 years of age were very scarce, since the managers of the institutions had no difficulty in finding them situations. In all the institutions there are many intelligent, good-looking and healthy children from infancy up to eight years of age, for whom foster homes would be very acceptable, and if taken young, so that they might grow up in the family and assimilate themselves to new conditions, these children would, in the majority of cases, turn out well and prove a comfort and blessing to those who cherished them in youth. But these are not sought after as they might be and are consequently compelled to lead a somewhat artificial existence until ready for the market.

The letters I have received and the intercourse I have had with farmers and with those connected with the various juvenile emigration agencies, prove beyond doubt that there is a real and important demand throughout the country for

juvenile labor. Adult labor is scarce, and even when attainable it is expensive, while growing lads, after a little experience, can do much of the required work for half the pay. When treated kindly and not overworked they usually enjoy their occupation and develop a healthy and robust physique. A great evil, to which public opinion has frequently been directed, is the steady gravitation of population to large cities, robbing the smaller towns of their importance and business activity, and leaving the rural districts with a force insufficient to develop the resources of the soil. If this be true, should it not be the constant aim of those engaged in juvenile rescue work to deport to rural districts as many dependent children as possible, at such an age as will enable them to acquire a taste for their new surroundings, and if we are not ourselves able or willing to meet the demand, should we exclude other children from these benefits?

#### JUVENILE IMMIGRATION.

I venture to touch upon the much-discussed question, whether or not the importation of English children should be prohibited. During the past six months I have given some attention to the subject. In addition to closely following the newspaper comments, I wrote to each of the agencies bringing children to Ontario—seven in number—and obtained full statistics and reports of their work. I also talked the matter over with leading farmers when opportunity offered and sought to bring an unbiased judgment to a decision. The conclusion I arrived at was that the benefit to the Province, generally, far outweighs the attendant evils. The comparatively few cases where these children have found their way into the police court, and the wide publicity given to such events, have blinded the eyes of many people to the immense number of children who have done well and are now useful and respected members of society, saved from the degradation in which they were born and lifted to self-respecting citizenship. During 1892, the number of children brought to Ontario from England and Scotland by the seven agencies was 1,574, while in 1893 the number was 1,807. In the past fifteen years nearly 10,000 children from the old country have found homes in this Province, and there can be no doubt but that the great majority of them have done well. It must be remembered, too, that those who succeed in life are not anxious that their antecedents should be publicly known, and their benefactors are thus deprived of incontrovertible testimony as to the good work accomplished. The weakest point in this work from a Canadian standpoint is the fact that the supervision of the children imported is exceedingly loose. There cannot avoid being occasional children who will develop evil tendencies, and these should not be allowed to become a burden upon the tax payers of this country. If suitable regulations were adopted, many of the objections now raised would be met, and I am sure the various agencies would be willing to comply with any reasonable conditions imposed upon them.

Probably the strongest argument would be that the importation of these children interfered with plans for the amelioration of the condition of our own children. But so far there has been no clashing. In the past work of this kind has not been taken up in Canada. It should and will be in the future, and when the two interests come into collision it will be time to seek a remedy. No one doubts but that Canadian children have the first claim upon our consideration, and when their interests are clearly shown to suffer I trust I shall be foremost in their advocacy.

### ILL-TREATED CHILDREN.

It would be impossible, even in a report calling for the fullest details, to mention the thousand and one matters attended to, small in themselves, but having an important bearing upon the successful carrying out of the Act. No opportunity has been lost of advancing the cause of the children, yet the field is so vast one can never feel that enough has been accomplished. The following might be cited as sample cases of those receiving attention :

#### AN UNWANTED BOY.

Some time ago, I received a letter from a clergyman, calling attention to the case of a boy who was grossly neglected and ill-treated by his parents. This case occurred at a village some twenty miles from Toronto. The lad was about 11 years of age, and his ill-treatment was due to a slight mental deficiency and to the fact that his mother was dead and the father had married again. It was charged by neighbors that the boy was compelled to sleep out of doors, his food being left on the back steps for him, and that his clothes were sewed together, so that he could not take them off. At the time of writing he had been for two months a wanderer in the village, getting a meal where he could and sleeping in stables and outhouses, his father not taking trouble to ascertain his whereabouts, or his mode of living. I wrote to the reeve of the village, and receiving a full confirmation of the ill-treatment, visited the place and interviewed the parents. After talking the matter over, I informed them that unless they were prepared to sign an agreement to pay the boy's board I would prosecute them for cruelty. I then drew up this agreement which both the man and his wife accepted and signed, the reeve attaching his signature as witness :—

Aug. 3rd. 1893.

We, A. B. and C. B. agree to pay for the support and care of D. B. at the rate of \$8 per month, for the next six months, dating from the 1st of August, 1893, and we agree not to interfere with the said boy, or seek to remove him from the home in which he may be placed by the Superintendent of Neglected Children of Ontario. The said money will be paid monthly, at the end of each month to                                  Reeve of

I then called upon an elderly couple who had been very kind to the lad in his extremity, and finding them good, honest people, well spoken of in the neighborhood, made the following agreement with them, which was duly signed and witnessed :—

I, Mrs. [redacted] do hereby engage in consideration of my receiving the sum of \$8 per month, to receive and care for D. B. as my own child—to provide him with proper food, clothing, lodging and washing, and to endeavor to train him in habits of truthfulness, obedience, personal cleanliness and industry; to take care that he shall attend church, day school and Sunday school, unless prevented by sickness or other urgent cause, and that he shall have every opportunity for improvement mentally, both myself and my daughter agreeing to take special pains with him to this end. I agree to be guided by any rules laid down by the Superintendent of Neglected Children, and to deliver up the said boy to anyone authorized by him to receive it.

I, T. C., having read over the above agreement entered into by my wife, am prepared to assist in carrying it out.

The boy was very happy in the new arrangement and the reeve undertook to act as local guardian. When this report closed the boy was still in the foster home, progressing favorably and receiving kinder treatment than he had known previously. The payment in this case may seem large, but it has to be remembered that the lad is mentally defective.

#### DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES.

I desire to call attention to the great hardship and injustice imposed upon children by municipal authorities seeking to avoid responsibility for their maintenance. When a child through the defection of its parents is thrown upon the care of the municipality, every effort seems to be made to prove it a fit subject for an idiot asylum or a reformatory—so that it may be supported at Government expense. Frequently in the past comparatively innocent children have been committed to reformatories simply that the municipality might shirk its plain duty to care for and maintain its indigent children. This is a great wrong to the children and it must have a blighting influence on their career, turning them in the direction of crime and pauperism. A few days ago, I received a letter from one of the sheriffs, stating that two children, one six and the other nine years of age, had been committed to the county gaol as vagrants, simply because they were homeless and the municipality in where they had lived was unwilling to do better for them. If this were an isolated case it would not require comment, but it unfortunately is typical of the general indifference that has prevailed. One municipal council on learning of the adoption of the new Act imagined that the Government had established a large institution for the maintenance of the unwanted children of the Province. I received a letter from the clerk asking me if I would be kind enough to let him know if there was such an institution kept up by the Government. I answered as follows :—

Toronto, Nov. 15, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your enquiry I would say: An Act was passed last session by the Ontario Legislature for the better protection of children, the chief feature of which is

that it provides for the placing or boarding out of all dependent children in private families. If there are any dependent children in your district who have lived there for a year past and there are no relatives who can be made to support them, it is clearly the duty of the municipality to board them out and see that they have opportunities for growing up as good and useful citizens. The community in which they live should surely protect and care for little ones unable to look after themselves. I send you a copy of the Act and if I can be of any further service kindly command me.

It is to be hoped that with a more enlightened public sentiment on the treatment of dependent children and with Children's Aid Societies actively engaged in various parts of the Province, such cases will become of rare occurrence.

#### A YOUNG GIRL'S DANGER.

As illustrating the need of protecting children, sometimes even from their nearest relatives, the following case might be mentioned:—On September 29, I was called upon by a well-known city mission worker who asked my intervention in the case of a little girl whose term of commitment to the Girls's Home was about to expire, but whose parents and relatives were of such a character as to mean almost certain ruin were the child again placed under their control. Ascertaining from other sources the correctness of this report, I wrote to the lady managers of the Home requesting that the child be detained until suitable action could be taken to have a proper guardianship declared by the court, as provided for in the Act. This was readily agreed to, but a short time after a respectably-dressed woman called at the Home and demanded the girl, claiming to be her sister and stating that she was the wife of a druggist in Detroit. She was referred to me, but as I happened to be out of town, she waited upon Judge McDougall, who in turn referred her to Staff-Inspector Archibald's department. A correspondence was opened with the Detroit authorities and information was received that the woman was of evil character and resided in a well-known house of ill-repute. The child still remains in the Home.

#### NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

The following is an instance of a class of cases which I find likely to be of frequent occurrence:—At the time of writing I have in hand for investigation the case of two little girls in a country district some twenty miles north-east of Toronto. The children are ten and twelve years of age respectively. They are living with a step-father and the mother is said to be of weak intellect. The charge is made by a number of very respectable people that the children are kept in great misery and ignorance; not allowed to attend school, but sent to beg, and that they are in constant danger of ill-treatment and moral contamination. An older sister, when a little over fourteen years of age disappeared, and none of the neighbors know what became of her. The twelve-year old girl had for a time been taken in and cared for by a lady in the district, but on receipt of a threatening letter from the step-father, sent through a lawyer, gave her up, and the child was once more sent out begging in rags and dirt. The correspondents state that good homes can be found for the children if they can be legally separated from the step-father. I have written to the Reeve and other local authorities and hope to arrange a solution that will ensure better treatment for the children.

## KINDRED SUBJECTS.

During the month of October I had the privilege of attending two World's Congresses at Chicago, interested in work on behalf of neglected children—the Humane Congress and the Waif-Saving Congress. Both conventions were held in the same week, and at each I had the honor of explaining the Ontario law. Many enquiries on particular points were made by delegates at the time and since, and much good will, I hope, result. The interchange of thought at such gatherings cannot fail to be helpful to all participating, and as the majority of the delegates were representatives of large local movements, the far-reaching effects of the Conference can hardly be estimated.

Since my appointment, also, I have corresponded with a number of societies and departments engaged in children's work in the United States, Great Britain and Australia, and have received some useful reports and sample copies of forms used by them in carrying on the work. These are very much appreciated, and I shall at all times be glad to receive any literature bearing upon the neglected children problem. Such favors will always be reciprocated.

### THE CURFEW LAW.

Although entirely optional with municipalities, the provisions of the Act relating to the Curfew bell have been put into operation in several of the towns and villages of the Province. It has existed for some time in Berlin, Waterloo, and Owen Sound, and during the past two months has been taken advantage of in Cornwall, Barrie, Georgetown and Rat Portage, and, it may be, in other places from which I have not heard.

### TRIAL OF CHILDREN.

Although not directly a part of this work, I take the liberty of referring to an evil of long standing, and one to which public attention has frequently been called, namely, the trial of young children in the same court and under the same procedure as old and hardened offenders. Although the degrading influence of such a system has been recognized on all hands, the law necessary to secure a change is still delayed. Two years ago Sir John Thompson was interviewed on the subject, with the result that the following clause was inserted in the revision of the criminal code :

"The trials of all persons apparently under the age of sixteen years shall, so far as it appears expedient and practicable, take place without publicity, and separately and apart from that of other accused persons, and at suitable times to be designated and appointed for that purpose."

This clause has proved absolutely valueless, since in no case has a magistrate considered it either expedient or practicable. The appointment under an Ontario law of a Commissioner in Toronto, to try juvenile offenders, has also proved of no service, it being held that such a Commissioner could not proceed under federal laws. As the chief offence for which children are arrested is that of larceny, it

is plain to be seen that no improvement can be effected until an explicit law is enacted by the Dominion Parliament. This, it is hoped, will be obtained at the approaching session, and it is safe to predict that such a law, properly carried out, will accomplish very important results in checking crime in its incipient stages. In the Ontario Act the fullest possible provision is made for the separate confinement and trial of all children guilty of offences against provincial laws, but unfortunately the chief offence committed by children—that of larceny—comes within Dominion jurisdiction. The Ontario law on this point, would, if enacted by the Dominion Parliament, meet the case.

#### SAMPLE CASES OF NEGLECTED BOYS.

In conversation with Mr. Charles W. McKim, Superintendent of the Toronto-Newsboy's Home, that gentleman mentioned several striking instances of the need of rescue work among children. At my suggestion he wrote the two following accounts, both of which are very similar to many cases I have myself known :

#### BAD HOME INFLUENCES.

As Superintendent of the Newsboys Lodging and Industrial Home, I became interested in a little boy of eight years, living on Edward Street in this City.

I called at that address and was soon in possession of facts which made me anxious to remove the boy from his present surroundings.

The mother of the lad is an abandoned woman, frequently intoxicated, and up to the time I called, had kept the boy with her in a house of ill-repute. She was willing to dispose of the boy as he had become a nuisance to her and accordingly I brought him to this Institution.

She also told me that she was a widow having lost her husband in the Humber accident, and that the boy was beyond her control. I brought the boy away with me at once, and started him at school, where for some months during the winter, he did very well.

Occasionally, however, he would absent himself and return to his mother, and on going after him on one occasion, I found him among a lot of women who were all drinking ; his mother being one of the number.

As he contracted the habit of stealing, and as the weather became warm, would remain out for several nights at a time, sleeping in sheds, etc., I made application to the Morality Department to have him committed to the Industrial School ; having first obtained the consent of his mother, who promised to be on hand to sign the papers at the proper time. These arrangements were all made without the boy's knowledge and when the day on which he was to be committed arrived, I brought him to the office. When his mother came she was in a drunken rage, and demanded her boy, and, as the officer then in the office did not know anything of the case, she was referred to me. She came to the Home and stated that her husband had returned to the city and that she would not have her boy committed as they could now support him. I gave her no satisfaction and immediately informed the police of her conduct, so that they would be prepared for her when she returned to the office. When next I called at the Department I found that she had obtained her wish and taken her boy away with her.

Since that time (now some weeks ago) the boy has been running wild on the street all day long and has not spent one day in school.

He is living with a disreputable character on Centre Avenue, who has been obliged to seek charity herself. I again reported the case to the Department and they have promised to deal with it.

The keepers of the house on Edward Street, from which the boy was originally taken, are now on remand charged with keeping a house of ill-fame. The boy is now in the Industrial School.

#### A YOUNG LAD'S CAREER.

About seven weeks ago a little boy of eleven years was sent to me from the Morality Department to see if I could do anything for him. I knew the little fellow well, for he had been convicted for larceny twice and had just been convicted of shop-breaking. I was convinced that I could not do anything with the boy as he had been running wild with a gang of young criminals for years and had been educated to everything that is bad, and so I urged that he be sent at once to the Victoria Industrial School at Mimico. I was told that he would be sent in a few days, but that it was desirable that I should keep him for some days at least. I did so and had no end of trouble with him as he would defy all rules and go and come, and do as he liked. One Sunday he jumped the fence and made off when I had forbidden him to go out, and that night I discovered him sleeping in a neighbouring vacant lot. I thought it best to have the boy taken to the station by the officer on the beat and charged with being a vagrant, hoping that that would be the means of sending him more quickly to the Industrial School. I did this and when he appeared in the court next morning I told the Staff Inspector (who was present), and asked him to push the matter, but on no account to send the boy back to me. Through some mistake the name of the boy was not entered on the calendar and he was let out, and nothing done in the matter. He returned to the Home that night and I decided to lay information against him myself, and have him tried for being a vagrant, and accordingly did so.

The magistrate then ordered him to be sent to the Industrial School.

As the boy's father was leaving the city a few days before, I got him to sign a paper to the effect that he was anxious to have him committed. I showed this paper to the magistrate, and he said that it was all right. It happened, however, that a brother of the boy, about eighteen years of age, was present in the Police Court when this boy was arraigned, and, as he was remanded for some days to have the necessary arrangements made for his being sent to the School, the brother concocted a scheme to get him off. He secured the services of a woman to come and personate the boy's mother and employed a lawyer to defend the boy. This was done aside from the magistrate while the boy was on remand and so he was let off.

The following day these brothers broke into and entered a store on Jarvis Street and stole a number of medals and coins valued at about \$300. The older one was caught, but not the younger, and I was asked to assist in finding him. I discovered him some little time afterwards and had him arrested, feeling sure that now at least he would be properly disposed of. He was again arraigned on this charge, and what was my surprise when he was discharged because he was considered too young to understand the nature of the offence.

He is now running wild on the streets and going to the bad as quickly as he can. His father was in a state of intoxication when last I saw him, and spoke in such foul language that I was obliged to leave him, and it is with this father the boy is now living.

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### LITERATURE ISSUED.

For general distribution I recently had 5,000 copies of the following circular printed, and it has already proved very useful:

#### NEGLECTED!

*If not Rescued what will His Future be?*

In the person of this neglected child is presented the type of many such children, who are growing up to be burdens to themselves and the community, because unloved and uncared for in early childhood.

In the wage-earning ranks there is room for this boy, if only a friendly hand will guide.

[Picture of Neglected Child.]

Can we afford that these boys should be lost to honor, virtue and usefulness?

In Ontario there is now a law under which benevolent people may unite to rescue and protect all ill-treated or neglected children. Is there such an organization in your city? If not, every moment lost means a suffering child left without protection, or neglected children allowed to drift on to wretchedness and crime. This noble work should appeal to the charity of everyone. Of all philanthropic efforts, child-saving is the most hopeful, and in the end the most economical.

Note.—For further information write to J. J. Kelso, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

[REVERSE SIDE.]

The presence of large numbers of neglected children in every centre of population is a satire on our civilization and a sure indication of a selfish and predatory social system.

The question of child-saving—that is, the true training and teaching of all children, is the first step towards laying the foundations of a permanent and perfect social fabric.

The age is advancing morally and socially, and by the adoption of practical preventive measures it is hoped to stay the cultivation of evil.

To remove destitute, neglected or abandoned children from evil guardianship and surroundings and place them in virtuous family homes is a duty we owe to ourselves, to the children, to humanity, to God.

In this question of child-saving we have the key to every social problem, for it is at the back and beginning of every one. It affects every condition of life and our individual and national well-being, and it will decide the destinies of two worlds—a world of happiness and a world of woe.

No investment gives a better return to-day on the capital put out than work among the children of the poor. It will pay any community twice over to rescue and protect its helpless and friendless children—assisting them to become self-supporting and self-respecting—rather than to provide reformatories, prisons, asylums, and other institutions at immense cost.

This is a work in which every citizen may have a worthy part. No defenceless child should be allowed to be systematically ill-treated or neglected. There is a law to punish every wrong-doer, and parents who fail to love and protect their offspring forfeit thereby their right to consideration. To secure justice for every child, it is necessary that citizens

generally should realize their responsibility in this matter. When you know or hear of a child being ill-treated or wronged, either by parent or anyone else, report the case at once to some one in authority. Do not fail in this. Report to the Children's Aid Society, or if none yet exists, apply to the chief constable, the crown attorney or the county judge. No one can escape responsibility by claiming it is not his business. It is everyone's business. A suffering child has an irresistible claim on the heart and conscience of every man and woman in the Province; in its weakness and helplessness it presents a plea that none should seek to resist.

#### NEGLECTED AND FRIENDLESS CHILDREN.

Following is an extract from an article recently published in the *Canadian Magazine*:

In this latter part of the nineteenth century, more attention is being paid to the causes and sources of crime than ever before. Every day it is becoming more evident that in the past, much effort has been wasted in dealing with effects rather than causes, and the most advanced thinkers now fully acknowledge that to effectively grapple with crime and vice, thought and effort must be concentrated on the children of the poor. The governing power must come to regard the child as a future citizen, and must see that it has opportunities for education and for development along the lines of industry and morality. A child's education begins from its earliest infancy, and the State has a right to insist that its training shall be such as to fit it ultimately for the proper discharge of its duties and responsibilities. We all know the difficulties experienced in influencing for good the inmates of reformatories and penal institutions, the years of labor that have been exhausted in seeking to break the chains that bind the drunkard. How much more hopeful the outlook when we deal at once and directly with the little children, and implant in their young minds aims and aspirations that shall carry them safely through life!

Very little thought has been given to these children. They have been neglected by parents, neglected by law-makers, neglected by school boards, and only thought of by the faithful mission worker, who, in the absence of suitable laws and the lack of public recognition, could accomplish but little of a permanent character. It would not be too much to say that seventy-five per cent. of the criminals of to-day were made such in early childhood. It is true that occasionally a young man of good family and occupying a position of trust gives way to temptation and falls to the criminal ranks, but he seldom remains there, usually returning after a short time to law-abiding citizenship.

The habitual criminal is made such in childhood, and he continues to live by crime, not voluntarily so much as necessarily. His actions indicate the early training working to its logical conclusion. There are children on our streets at this moment who will almost surely be criminals. It is their hard and cruel fate. They are consigned to it by neglectful and vicious parents, and by the indifference and shortsightedness of the community, through its authorized representatives.

Are we justified in expecting otherwise than that evil training shall bear evil fruit?

Consider the case of a child born of drunken and degraded parents growing up in a hot-bed of vice; hearing nothing but profanity and obscenity; learning nothing of the difference between right and wrong; no prayer whispered over its cradle; no pure thoughts of a better life instilled into its budding mind; its playground the street; its companions equally benighted with itself. It cannot attend school; it has no clothes; it is not kept clean; the mother would not take the trouble to send it, and school boards are not always sufficiently interested to provide accommodation and enforce attendance. Growing up

untrained, except in evil and sharp, cunning ways, the child at seven or eight years of age is sent out to sell papers or to beg, sometimes to steal, on the streets constantly, and with companions older in vice than himself. The boy learns rapidly, until at fifteen or sixteen he becomes a thief when opportunity offers, and trusts to luck to escape detection and retain freedom.

With the girl the downward course is somewhat different, though the result is essentially the same. Escape from the family quarrels and squalor is sought on the streets, where vice is easily learned, and the road to comfort and luxury made to appear comparatively easy, until by stages she sinks into a common outcast, unpitied and unloved.

Thus are the ranks of the criminal classes supplemented, and thus is perpetuated the curse of evil that stands as a constant menace to life and property, and continues to hold over every community a sense of insecurity. And where, we may well ask, lies the blame for this state of things? Not with the helpless victim of untoward circumstances, but with the parents, and with the community which failed to step in when the parents proved false to their duty.

In proposing a remedy, the first essential is education. Not education in the narrow sense of mere intellectual instruction; but education which cultivates the heart and the moral nature, which inculcates truthfulness and gentleness and modesty and calls out the purest and noblest instincts of humanity. In providing such an education it may, and often will, be necessary to remove the child from its natural parents. In this enlightened age it is a recognized principle that no man or woman has a right to train a child in vice, or debar it from opportunities for acquiring pure and honest habits; and if parents are not doing justly by their children, they forfeit their right to continued guardianship. This principle is now a legal enactment in almost every Christian land, and it is only in the careful yet unfaltering use of this power that we can hope for a noticeable reduction in our prison population. It is a duty we owe to ourselves; it is far more a duty we owe to the children who are thus unfortunately placed. Every resource of the law should be exercised to compel such parents to pay for the education of the children removed from their control. For the protection of the child the removal is made; for the protection of the community, the unworthy parent should be compelled to pay to the last farthing.

For all such children real homes should be sought where they may develop naturally and grow up in common with all other children. An institution is not a home, and never can be made such, though it may be useful as a temporary abode in which to prepare the little one for the family circle. No child should be kept permanently in an institution, however good, and this is something that cannot be too frequently pointed out, since there are orphanages that retain children for periods of from five to ten years. J. J. KELSO.

#### THE CHILDREN'S ACT.

An article on The Children's Act, written by the Hon. J. M. Gibson for the January number of the *Methodist Magazine*, presents the subject so clearly that I venture to give here a few extracts from it:

After careful consideration of the Prison Reform Commissioner's findings, and of the subject generally, the Government decided that a broad and comprehensive measure, dealing with neglected and dependent children, would be of more permanent advantage than any piecemeal measure of partial Prison Reform. "Prevention is better than cure," and it is generally admitted that the criminal classes are constantly being recruited from the ranks of children who grow up amid unfavourable surroundings, which naturally qualify

for, and lead up to, criminal tendencies and habits. Remove the young from schools of crime, and place them under virtuous and benign influences, and almost in the same proportion do we cut off what, later on, will form a part of our criminal population.

It is not merely by the infliction of physical injury and suffering that children are made the subjects of cruel treatment. The man who deliberately teaches his child to steal, whose home is a school of crime, and the mother who turns her apartments into a brothel, are practising the worst form of cruelty upon children whose natures are day by day being moulded under such immoral influences and surroundings.

The provisions of the Act affecting neglected and dependent children contemplate the gradual introduction in Ontario of a new system of taking care of the unprovided-for orphans and waifs of the community. Instead of the crowded children's homes that are found in our cities and towns, the placing-out or foster-home system is provided for by the Act. This plan of caring for neglected and dependent children has for some years been in operation in the Australian colonies, and has been remarkably successful. The South Australia Act of 1872, authorizing the placing out of dependent children, is referred to by high authority as marking a new epoch in the treatment of children under government control throughout the Australian continent. The annual report of the New South Wales department for children show that that progressive colony is making haste to be quite abreast of the age in the matter of intelligent methods of reclaiming children.

Massachusetts has long had a system of this nature. The Michigan system is probably, as a state system, as complete and thorough in details as any in the world, and this system has been more or less followed by Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Minnesota and some other states.

The Act contemplates that there shall be organized and incorporated Children's Aid Societies in the various cities, towns and larger villages: that these societies shall have for their object the putting into operation of the machinery and the enforcement of the provisions of the Act; and that an officer of any of these societies (who might well enough, at the same time, be a truant officer under the School laws) may be appointed and authorized to act as a constable. Such an officer would always be on the alert to direct cases of cruelty to children, as already mentioned, but would also be intrusted with a most important duty and authority as regards neglected children. The Act authorizes such officer of a Children's Aid Society to apprehend without warrant, and bring before the magistrate any neglected child under fourteen years of age.

The parents or custodian of the child are entitled to notice of the examination by the magistrate, and if the magistrate finds the child to be dependent or neglected within the meaning of the Act, or in a state of habitual vagrancy or mendicity, or ill treated so as to be in peril of life, health, or morality, by continued personal injury, or by grave misconduct, or habitual intemperance of the parents or guardian, he may order the delivery of the child to the Children's Aid Society, and the Society may send the child to their temporary home to be kept until placed in an approved foster home. The Aid Society then becomes the legal guardian of the child, and may place children in families under written contracts during minority, or for a shorter period, at discretion. Towards the expenses of caring for children in temporary homes or in foster homes where they are not taken without compensation, the municipalities to which they belong are required to pay one dollar weekly for each child.

A visiting committee is to be appointed in each electoral division, consisting of six persons, not less than three of whom are to be women, who are to serve without compensation and co-operate with the Children's Aid Societies under the direction of the Provincial Superintendent. It is expected that these committees will prove effective agencies for the selection of homes where children may be received to be cared for, and that much may be done in the way of promoting and encouraging, even in the rural parts of the country, a philanthropic sentiment any interest on behalf of neglected, abandoned, and destitute children.

An important function of the visiting committee is the supervision of children placed out. Each child is expected to be visited by some member of the committee for the electoral division where the child is placed at least once every three months; and in this way there is a safeguard provided against mistakes in placing out. Where a child appears to be unhappy, or for any reason not doing well, or where there appears a probability of the child being benefited by a change to some other home, the visiting committee have full power to make the change. The Superintendent will keep a record of each child, and the visiting committee are to report from time to time to the Superintendent as to their visitations and as to the care of each child placed out in their district. They are also to report to the Children's Aid Societies with reference to children placed out by these societies, so that the societies may have regular and reliable information regarding the care, oversight, education and general welfare of the children who have passed through their hands, and who still remain under the legal guardianship of these societies.

In selecting homes for children, a very important responsibility rests with the visiting committee. The object should be to choose families who may be willing to take children for bringing up, not for the motive of obtaining cheap service from them, but because they like to have children in their homes. It remains to be seen whether or not an ample supply of homes may be found where children will be received without any remuneration for care and maintenance. There must, in this Province, be numerous cases where children, having grown up, have married and secured homes of their own, or have gone out into the world to do for themselves, leaving the old homestead childless and lonely, and where well selected children would be welcomed for their bright and gladdening presence and influence in the depleted family circle. Many homes have been blessed with children who have been removed by premature death, and others have never been brightened by their presence.

With Children's Aid Societies in the centres of population, well organized and managed by earnest-minded people devoted to the work, searching out the children who are without parental care, neglected or abandoned, securing them from pernicious influences and surroundings, all tending in the wrong direction, and the voluntary committee throughout the Province seeking for desirable homes for these children, advising and assisting in the work of placing out, and maintaining a watchful and kindly interest in the treatment they receive in their new homes and their education and progress towards independent, useful and honourable citizenship, a network agency can be established in our community capable of accomplishing wonderful results in reducing the number of those from whom the criminal classes are constantly being recruited.

The system contemplates the gradual absorption by the community of the neglected and dependent children of the State. The process of absorption is more natural and more gradual, and consequently more successful, than can the result from the institution plan

of caring for these children. As far as possible, children to be dealt with, should be restored to these conditions under which all should be brought up. They should have the care of motherly and fatherly people, who, as their foster parents, may replace those they have lost, and under whose charge they may participate in the wholesome family influences, which afford the best training for a good and independent life. The matron of a Home cannot bestow her personal affection upon the large numbers under her control, and she should not single out a limited few to the exclusion of the others. The child's natural desire is for home life, for affection, and above all, parental love.

There is no surer and more effective mode of improving society than the rescuing of neglected and dependent children from dangerous environments, wisely caring and providing for them during their early years, and giving them a good chance for a fair start in life. This is a busy world, and philanthropic work is too much confined to the few, but a movement of so vital importance to society should enlist the active co-operation and practical sympathies of all.

#### REPORT OF AN AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION.

In Victoria, Australia, where the foster home system is in full operation, the adoption of that system was largely brought about by the report of a royal commission on Industrial and Reformatory schools. The institutions were growing so large and so numerous that a public enquiry was held to be a necessity. The Commission, after a careful investigation, condemned and protested against the continuance of the institutional system of caring for children on the following, among other grounds :

1. That the deprivation of all the natural domestic associations injuriously affected the health and spirits of the children.
2. That the bringing together of large numbers exposed them to dangers of contagion, both physical and moral.
3. That no opportunity was afforded for implanting in the mind those virtues which spring from the exercise of the domestic affections.
4. That the mere numbers prevented that attention to the peculiar disposition of each child (that individualization), which is the only effective means of bringing moral and religious influences to bear either on children or adults.
5. That the trades taught, even if efficiently imparted, which was often not the case, were of a kind to compel the children to take up their residence in towns, with their inevitable snares and temptations, when they might, and should be, dispersed throughout the rural districts where their labor would be in request.
6. That no family or domestic ties of any kind were being formed (an especially serious defect in the case of girls), no personal influences of "home" or "mother" or "father," or even of brother or sister.

The Commission further represented that the tendency of the system was to constantly increase the number of children thrown on the care of the state by reckless parents, so encouraging the growth of a permanent pauper element, and that its maintenance would involve an enormously and rapidly augmenting outlay, giving an average annual expenditure per child out of all proportion to the amount expended on the care and education of children of the same class outside the schools.

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### RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS.

One of the principal objections raised by those who look with doubt upon interference with the family relationship, is that parents will be glad to be relieved of the expense of bringing up their children, and will therefore neglect them purposely. The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Home Secretary of Great Britain, deals clearly with this point in one of his speeches before the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He says:

"Wherever a case is proved in which the child is thrown by the neglect or by the ill-treatment of its parents upon the public charge, there the state has a right which it ought unflinchingly to enforce, to come upon the parents and to get from them in the form of punishment or pecuniary indemnity, some return for the charge which they have thrown upon the community. The two processes must go hand in hand, and while it is important, where the necessities of the case require it, that you should seclude the child from the contaminating influence of a bad home and irresponsible parents, yet it is equally important that you should not encourage parents of that class to suppose that they will get a kind of premium or reward for the neglect of their natural duties. You should insist that wherever these duties are neglected they should make some adequate compensation to the state."

### THE FAMILY TIE.

Probably no more delicate task could be intrusted to any individual or society than that of deciding when a child should be removed from a mother's control. The societies operating under this Act will, it is hoped, exercise great care in this respect, and only resort to such action when every other influence over the parents has been found of no avail. There is also an additional safeguard in the fact that all the evidence must be submitted to a judge, upon whom rests the responsibility of final action. In a speech delivered before the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain said :

"There is one other principle I like to find is recognized by the Society. There is evidently no desire or intention to bring about a rupture of the parental tie where that can possibly be avoided. I attach a very great importance to that. I believe that really—where it can be shown that a child at home is unhappy, that its surroundings are not altogether satisfactory—that in fact in all cases where it is not possible to see danger either to the health or morals of the child, that it is better to try and improve the conditions than to rudely break them altogether. (Hear, hear.) I remember an incident which occurred to me some time ago, and which made upon my mind a great impression. I was being conducted over an industrial ship where there were a great number of children who had been committed for terms of years for slight offences. The gentleman who accompanied me pointed to the healthy condition of the children, to their happy looks, to the good food which was provided for them, and to the attention which was paid them. He said that they came in most instances from very miserable and unhappy homes, and, in fact, he said, 'I think the majority of them would much rather be here than where they came from.' There was a little boy standing by, a bright little fellow, and I said to him, 'How long have you been here?' He replied, 'Two years and 133 days.' I turned to my friend and said, 'That child is counting the time. It does not look as if he preferred his home here to the home that he has left.' (Laughter.) I asked the boy some other questions, and he

told me he was very happy, that he liked his playmates, that the officers were very kind to him, that he had more food than he could eat, and many more satisfactory things. I said, 'Then you are better off here than you were at home.' 'Yes, sir.' was his answer. 'Do you want to go home?' 'Oh ! Yes, sir.' 'But,' I said, 'if you are so happy here, if you tell me you are better here than you were at home, why do you want to go back?' 'Please, sir, I want to see my Aunt Fanny.' That was a very pathetic reply. (Hear, hear.) It showed that this child's affection—I heard afterwards that his parents were drunken, and that they treated him with cruelty and indifference—for the one person who stood in the place of his parents to him, who was the one blood-relation upon whose kindness he could rely was nearer to him than the strongest sentiment or any appeal that you could make to his material comfort or welfare.'

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### CO-OPERATION SOLICITED.

In concluding this report it may not be out of place to urge upon all who read it, to give their assistance in carrying out this great work for the protection of all children from ill-treatment and neglect, and the providing of homeless or dependent children with family homes, where they will receive kind treatment and be given a chance of developing into good citizens. In the first place, no case seeming to require attention should be passed over unnoticed. If reported to the proper authorities and the negligent parent warned, the desired improvement may be effected and a child's life made much brighter and happier in consequence.

Another feature of the work is this : There are hundreds of bright children in the various institutions of the Province whose one great need is a family home. On the other hand, there are many good people whose homes are quiet and lonely, and whose hearts are drying up for lack of objects on which to lavish their sympathies and affections. Could they not try the experiment of one of these children in their midst ? It might prove a great blessing to them, and if after a fair trial they did not wish to continue the arrangement, no difficulty would be experienced in returning the child.

For the better carrying on of this work, I would like to have the name and address of at least one child's friend in every village, to whom I might apply for information and assistance at any time. I would be glad if anyone reading this and desiring to volunteer would write to me.

Clergymen or others willing to present the claims of this work to their people will be supplied with any facts or literature at command, and their co-operation is solicited. This work on behalf of children should not be regarded as the work of one, or of a select few—it is the common cause of all—and only when this is fully understood and acted upon can the best success be looked for.





